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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: N. KOBAYASHI et al.  
Serial No.: 09/887,328  
Filed: June 25, 2001  
For: DIGITAL MAGNETIC RECORDING/REPRODUCING APPARATUS  
Art Unit: 2634  
Examiner: C. Fan

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SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

October 3, 2001

Sir:

Prior to examination, and further to the preliminary amendment of September 25, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Delete the paragraph on page 10, line 23, through page 11, line 17, and replace it with the following replacement paragraph:

B.1  
--(1) Since the necessary path memory length for the LVA detector is required to be larger than the CRC block length, making the CRC block length long (more than about 100 bits) makes it impractical to construct the LVA detector. In the conventional system, the LVA is utilized in a communications